

ARTICLE IX

THE RETIREMENT OF EMPLOYEES

Section 141: City Employees' Retirement System

The Council of the City is hereby authorized and empowered by ordinance to establish a retirement system and to provide for death benefits for compensated public officers and employees, other than those policemen and firemen who were members of a pension system on June 30, 1946. No employee shall be retired before reaching the age of sixty-two years and before completing ten years of service for which payment has been made, except such employees may be given the option to retire at the age of fifty-five years after twenty years of service for which payment has been made with a proportionately reduced allowance. Policemen, firemen and full time lifeguards, however, who have had ten years of service for which payment has been made may be retired at the age of fifty-five years, except such policemen, firemen and full time lifeguards may be given the option to retire at the age of fifty years after twenty years of service for which payment has been made with a proportionately reduced allowance.

The Council may also in said ordinance provide:

- (a) For the retirement with benefits of an employee who has become physically or mentally disabled by reason of bodily injuries received in or by reason of sickness caused by the discharge of duty or as a result thereof to such an extent as to render necessary retirement from active service.
- (b) Death benefits for dependents of employees who are killed in the line of duty or who die as a result of injuries suffered in the performance of duty.
- (c) Retirement with benefits of an employee who, after ten years of service for which payment has been made, has become disabled to the extent of not being capable of performing assigned duties, or who is separated from City service without fault or delinquency.

- (d) For health insurance benefits for retired employees.

(Editor's note: Supplement No. 655)

(Amendment voted 03-13-1945; effective 04-09-1945.)

(Amendment voted 04-19-1949; effective 05-20-1949.)

(Amendment voted 03-13-1951; effective 03-26-1951.)

(Amendment voted 06-08-1954; effective 01-10-1955.)

(Amendment voted 11-06-1990; effective 02-19-1991.)

(Amendment voted 11-08-1994; effective 01-30-1995.)

(Amendment voted 11-05-1996; effective 02-10-1997.)

Section 142: Employment of Actuary

The Board of Administration hereinafter provided, shall secure from a competent actuary a report of the cost of establishing a general retirement system for all employees of The City of San Diego. Said actuary shall be one who has had actual experience in the establishing of retirement systems for public employees, and his position shall be considered one requiring expert or technical training within the meaning of subdivision (k) of Section 118 of Article VIII of this Charter.

Section 143: Contributions

The retirement system herein provided for shall be conducted on the contributory plan, the City contributing jointly with the employees affected thereunder. Employees shall contribute according to the actuarial tables adopted by the Board of Administration for normal retirement allowances, except that employees shall, with the approval of the Board, have the option to contribute more than required for normal allowances, and thereby be entitled to receive the proportionate amount of increased allowances paid for by such additional contributions. The City shall contribute annually an amount substantially equal to that required of the employees for normal retirement allowances, as certified by the actuary, but shall not be required to contribute in excess of that amount, except in the case of financial liabilities accruing under any new retirement plan or revised retirement plan because of past service of the employees. The mortality, service, experience or other table calculated by the actuary and the valuation determined by him and approved by the board shall be conclusive and final, and any retirement system established under this article shall be based thereon.

(Amendment voted 03-13-1945; effective 04-09-1945.)

(Amendment voted 06-08-1954; effective 01-10-1955.)

Section 143.1: Approval of Amendments by Members

No ordinance amending the retirement system which affects the benefits of any employee under such retirement system shall be adopted without the approval of a majority vote of the members of said system. No ordinance amending the retirement system which affects the vested defined benefits of any retiree of such retirement system shall be adopted without the approval of a majority vote of the affected retirees of said retirement system.

(Addition voted 06-08-1954; effective 01-10-1955.)

(Amendment voted 11-06-1990; effective 02-19-1991.)

Section 144: Board of Administration

The system shall be managed by a Board of Administration which is hereby created, consisting of the City Manager, City Auditor and Comptroller, the City Treasurer, three members of the Retirement System to be elected by the active membership, one retired member of the retirement system to be elected by the retired membership, an officer of a local bank, and three other citizens of the City, the latter four to be appointed by the Council. Such appointees shall serve without compensation. Members of the Board, other than ex-officio, shall serve six years or until their successors are elected and qualified, and shall so classify themselves by lot that one term shall expire each year. The members of the existing Board shall serve out their unexpired terms.

The Board of Administration may establish such rules and regulations as it may deem proper; shall elect one of its members president and appoint a secretary and may appoint such other employees as may be necessary. Such appointments, except the actuary, shall be made under the provisions of Article VIII of this Charter.

The Board of Administration shall be the sole authority and judge under such general ordinances as may be adopted by the Council as to the conditions under which persons may be admitted to benefits of any sort under the retirement system; and shall have exclusive control of the administration and investment of such fund or funds as may be established; and shall be permitted to invest in any bonds or securities which are authorized by General Law for savings banks; and, further, shall be permitted to invest in such additional classes or types of investments as are approved by resolution of the Council of The City of San Diego; provided, however, that individual investments within the classes or types approved by the Council must be approved by independent investment counsel; and, provided, further, the board may place such funds in the hands of the Funds Commission for investment. Provided, however, that the Auditor and Comptroller shall refuse to allow any warrant drawn for payment of a retirement allowance if, in the opinion of the Auditor and Comptroller, such retirement allowance has been granted in contravention of this Article or any ordinances passed under the authority granted herein.

(Amendment voted 03-13-1951; effective 03-26-1951.)

(Amendment voted 11-08-1960; effective 01-09-1961.)

(Amendment voted 11-04-1969; effective 01-29-1970.)

(Amendment voted 06-04-1974; effective 08-13-1974.)

(See Article X for additional members.)

Section 145: Retirement Fund

All moneys contributed by employees of the City or appropriated by the Council or received from any other source under the terms of this Article, shall be placed in a special fund in the City Treasury to be known as the City Employees' Retirement Fund, which said fund is hereby created. Such fund shall be a Trust Fund to be held and used only for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this Article. No payments shall be made

therefrom except upon the order of the Board of Administration. This fund may be placed by the Board under the Funds Commission for investment; but shall not be merged with other funds of the City.

Section 146: Additional Provisions

The Council is hereby fully empowered by a majority vote of the members to enact any and all ordinances necessary, in addition to the ordinance authorized in Section 141 of this Article, to carry into effect the provisions of this Article; and any and all ordinances so enacted shall have equal force and effect with this Article and shall be construed to be a part hereof as fully as if drawn herein.

Section 147: Former Pensioners Entitled to Benefits of this Article

All persons who were receiving pensions prior to the adoption of this Charter shall be entitled to all the provisions of this Article.

Section 148: Declaration of Intent

It is the intent and purpose of this Article, where not in conflict with the terms of the present existing City Employees' Retirement System, to continue said system in force and effect as existing at the time this Charter is adopted.

Section 148.1: Authority to Consolidate City Employees' Retirement System with State of California Retirement System And/or U.s. Government Social Security

Notwithstanding any of the provisions of this Article IX to the contrary, the Council may, with the approval of a majority of all active members of the City Employees' Retirement System, enter into a contract with the State of California wherein said employees shall be entitled to become members of and enjoy all of the benefits of the State Retirement System for state employees, and/or with the U. S. Government for the conferring of Social Security benefits upon such municipal employees; provided, however, that in any such contract provision shall be made for protecting and safeguarding any and all vested rights of the active and retired members of the City Employees' Retirement System as it exists under this Charter.

(Addition voted 04-21-1953; effective 05-29-1953.)

Section 149: Contracting Public Agencies

Subject to approval by the City Council, a public agency may participate in the City Employees Retirement Trust Fund. After a finding by the City Council that the public agency is eligible for participation in the Trust Fund and approval by the City Council of a contract between the Board of Administration and the public agency, as provided by

ordinance, the Board may administer the benefits adopted by the public agency for its employees. The public agency shall establish its own benefits and vesting schedule. All monies contributed by the public agency and its employees or appropriated by the public agency or received from any other source under the terms of this Article shall be placed in the Trust Fund to be held and used only for the purpose of paying benefits and necessary expenses of administration related to the public agency's participation. The public agency and its employees shall be responsible for all costs associated with participation in the Fund and the administration of the public agency's benefits. The Board may establish such rules and regulations as it may deem proper, within the terms of applicable Charter sections and ordinances, for the administration of the public agency's contract and benefits.

(Addition voted 03-05-2002; effective 04-24-2002.)